

But as a society we have already made this decision. We permit abortion. We permit in vitro fertilization, which creates nine or 10 embryos, of which all but one will be destroyed. We must not say to millions of sick or injured human beings, go ahead and die, stay paralyzed, because we believe the blastocyst, the clump of cells, is more important than you are.

Let us not go down in history with those bodies in the past who have tried to stop scientific research, to stop medical progress. Let us not be in a position of saying to Galileo, the sun goes around the world and not vice versa. That is what this bill does.

It is easier to prevent a human being from being cloned, to put people in jail if they try to do that. It is not a slippery slope. One cannot police the hundreds and thousands of biological labs which can produce clones of cells. Much easier to police the cloning of human beings. The slippery slope argument does not work.

Let us not put a stop to medical progress and to human hope.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, the last two speakers, both of whom were on the Democratic side of the aisle, show very clearly the difference in values that are being enunciated in the two bills before the House today.

On one hand, we hear support for the Greenwood bill, which really allows the FDA to license an industry for profit and clone human embryos.

On the other hand, we hear those in favor of the Weldon bill, myself included, who say that we ought to ban the cloning of human embryos and the experimentation thereon.

This is a question of values. I would point out that the previous speaker, the gentleman from New York, during the Committee on the Judiciary debate, said, "I have no moral compunction about killing that embryo for therapeutic or experimental purposes at all."

Mr. Speaker, I think those who are interested in values should vote against Greenwood and should vote in favor of the Weldon bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS).

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, science is a wonderful thing. Who would have thought that polio could be cured or men could go to the Moon even a century ago?

But with the power that comes from science, we must also be ethical and exercise responsibility. The Nazis tried to create a race of supermen through the science of eugenics. They tried to create a perfect human being the same way a breeder creates a championship dog. That was immoral. We stopped it, and it has not been tried again since.

Now we have some scientists who want to create cloned human beings, some saying a cloned baby could be born as soon as next year. This is a

frightening and gruesome reality. Mr. Speaker, there is no ethical way to clone a human being. If we were to allow it at all, we would have to choose between allowing them to grow and be born or killing them, letting them die. This is a line we should not cross.

The simple question is: Is it right or wrong to clone human beings? Eighty-eight percent of the American people say it is wrong. The point is that even in science, the ends do not justify the means. The Nazis may in fact have been able to create a race of healthier and more capable Germans if they had been allowed to proceed, but eugenics and cloning are both wrong.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Chairman, the distinguished chairman says that this bill, the distinction between those of us who support the Greenwood bill or support the Weldon bill is a matter of values.

I agree. Some of us believe that a clump of cells not implanted in a woman's uterus, and Senator HATCH agrees, do not have the same moral right and value as a person who is suffering from a disease; that it is our right and our duty to cure human diseases, to prolong human life. We value life.

A human being is not simply a clump of cells. At some point, that clump of cells may develop into a fetus and a human being; but the clump of cells at the beginning does not have the same moral value as a person. If one believes that, they should vote with us. If they do not, then they probably will not.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD), who had an excellent discussion during the Committee on Rules.

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of values. It is a matter of how much one values our ability to end human suffering and to cure disease.

No one in this House should be so arrogant as to assume that they have a monopoly on values, that their side of an argument is the values side and the other's is not. This is a matter of how much we value saving little children's lives and saving our parents' lives.

There has been talk on the floor about creating embryo factories. Most of that talk I think has been conducted by people who do not understand the first thing about this research.

Here is how one could create an embryo factory. We would get a long line of women who line up in a laboratory and say, would you please put me through the extraordinarily painful process of superovulation because I would like to donate my eggs to science.

Does anybody think that is going to happen? Of course it is not going to happen. We are going to take this re-

search, and this research involves a very small handful of cells. In the natural world, every day millions of cells, millions of eggs, are fertilized, and they do not adhere to the wall of the uterus. They are flushed away. That is how God does God's work.

In in vitro fertilization clinics, every day thousands of eggs are fertilized, and most of them are discarded. That is the way loving parents build families who cannot do it otherwise. No one is here to object to that. Thousands of embryos are destroyed.

We are talking about a handful, a tiny handful of eggs that are utilized strictly for the purpose of understanding how cells transform themselves from somatic to stem and back to somatic, because when we understand that, we will not need any more embryonic material. We will not need any cloned eggs. We will have discovered the proteins and the growth factors that let us take the DNA of our own bodies to cure that which tortures us.

That is the value that I am here to stand for, because I care about those children, and I care about those parents, and I care about those loved ones who are suffering.

I am not prepared as a politician to stand on the floor of the House and say, I have a philosophical reason, probably stemmed in my religion, that makes me say, you cannot go there, science, because it violates my religious belief.

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I think it violates the constitution to take that position.

And on the question of whether or not we can do stem cell research with the Weldon bill in place, I would quote the American Association of Medical Colleges. It says, "H.R. 2505 would have a chilling effect on vital areas of research that could prove to be of enormous public benefit." The Weldon bill would be responsible for having that chilling effect on research.

The Greenwood substitute stops reproductive cloning in its tracks, as it ought to be stopped, but allows the research to continue, and I would advocate its support.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. KERNS), who is an author of the bill.

Mr. KERNS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I come to the floor of this House today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2505, the Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2001. Today we take an important step in the process to ban human cloning in the United States.

I commend the leadership of the chairman, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), as well as the coauthors, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK), and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH), because this is a bipartisan bill. I also appreciate the support and the efforts